



PATENT
21101-0007

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Yoel Wazana, et al.

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Serial No.: 10/660,918

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For: REMANUFACTURED TONER
CARTRIDGE HAVING MODIFIED
ROLLER SECTION

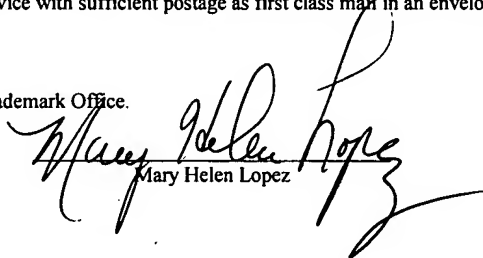
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

1. Preliminary Statements

Applicants submit herewith a copy of each of the patents and publications of which
Applicants are aware, as listed on the enclosed Form PTO/SB/08 which Applicants believe

may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. It is to be noted that the seven patents and one published application for patent submitted herewith are submitted concurrently with Applicants' Petition to Make Special under M.P.E.P § 708.02, VIII.

While this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 (a) exists. This Information Disclosure Statement is filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(1) within three months of the filing date of a national application.

2. Discussion of the References

Each of the references listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08 is directed to some aspects of a remanufactured toner cartridge assembly having a modified roller.

U.S. Patent No. 5,115,275 for a Developing Unit for an Image Recording

Apparatus

U.S. Patent No. 5,115,275 (“’275”) discloses a developing unit for an image recording apparatus (e.g. printer). The ‘275 developing unit is adapted to be prevented from being loaded into the recording apparatus when it has reached the end of its life-cycle. A metering blade is mentioned as part of the functional components of the developing unit in Figs. 9-10, (col. 5, line 40-64). A doctor blade is mentioned as part of the functional components of the developing unit in Figs. 21, 24, 25, 26, and 28 (col. 7, line 53 to col. 9, line 15). However, in contrast to the claimed invention, there is no teaching on how the doctor and/or metering blade can be re-used in a remanufactured toner cartridge.

U.S. Patent No. 6,141,514 for a Component Reusing System, Product Capable of Being Easily Disassembled, and Disassembling Method

U.S. Patent No. 6,141,514 (“’514”) discloses a process cartridge that is provided with a plurality of functional units that can be easily disassembled so as to be recycled. The ‘514 invention is directed at making a process cartridge that can be easily disassembled so as to ease the reuse and recycling process. Figs. 1-17 are directed toward a system and method for disassembly. Figs. 18-22 disclose a housing unit with a roller

section, with Figs. 23-24 specifically directed toward a process cartridge that can be disassembled (col. 20, lines 15-60). In contrast to the claimed invention, there is no teaching on doctor/wiper blade and how each blade can be re-used in a remanufactured toner cartridge.

U.S. Patent No. 6,301,461 for a Doctor Blade, Toner Cartridge Using such a Doctor Blade and Copying Process

U.S. Patent No. 6,301,461 (“461 patent”) discloses a doctor blade that consists of at least a substrate provided with an element having a face adapted for working with a magnetic roller, wherein the element is made at least partly of an elastic material and the face has an electrical surface resistivity of less than $9.9 \cdot 10^{14} \Omega$ per square and a thickness of at least 100 μm .

The ‘461 patent is directed toward a doctor blade that has various embodiments of an elastic element attached to its face. Figs. 1-15 are directed toward a new doctor blade (col. 7, line 68 to col. 10, line 28). The ‘461 patent begins discussion for reconditioning a doctor blade on col. 10, line 29-49 (Figs. 16 and 17). It teaches a reconditioning process including a treatment that is applied to the used doctor blade. This treatment is combined with or followed by a bending of the blade in a certain direction (col. 10, line 33-40). It also teaches the placement of a strip on the face of the doctor blade (col. 10, line 50-53). In contrast to

the present invention, it does not utilize “an unworn area” for the purpose of reuse. The ‘461 patent process incurs the additional costs of having to apply an additional strip on the face on the doctor blade in the remanufacturing process, whereas the present invention requires no such strip or other treatment.

U.S. Patent No. 6,484,001 for a Process for Recycling a Toner Cartridge

U.S. Patent No. 6,484,001 (“’001”) discloses a process for recycling a toner cartridge, including a used magnetic roller and a used doctor blade. In particular, the ‘001 process involves a treatment of the doctor blade to restore the shape of the doctor blade. The treatment comprises of coating the doctor blade with an anti-static and anti-abrasive coating , as well as an optional heat and pressure treatment (col. 4, lines 18-55). ‘001 describes in detail a coating apparatus (Figs. 1-4) and its related support system (Figs. 5-9). Again, in contrast to the present invention, there is no mention of utilizing the “unworn area” of the doctor blade. The extensive process of ‘001 patent incurs the additional costs of having to apply coating on the face on the doctor blade and subject it to heat and pressure treatment in the remanufacturing process, whereas the present invention requires no such treatment.

U.S. Patent No. 6,577,830 for a Reassembled Toner Cartridge and Method of

Manufacture

U.S. Patent No. 6,577,830 (“’830”) discloses a reassembled toner cartridge and method of manufacture in which a reassembled toner cartridge is resealed by simultaneous ultrasonic welding at multiple locations. The ‘830 patent is invented by a common inventor and has a common assignee as the present application.

U.S. Patent No. 6,587,657 for a Sealing Member for Toner Assembly

U.S. Patent No. 6,587,657 (“’657”) discloses a method and apparatus in which parts of toner cartridge are attached by means of hot-melt means, so that the reconditioning of the toner cartridge is facilitated. It is directed at sealing means for assembling the toner container (col. 2, line 30-col. 9, line 14). However, the ‘657 patent does not disclose a method for reconditioning doctor/wiper blade nor a remanufactured laser toner cartridge having a modified roller section comprising such a doctor/wiper blade.

U.S. Patent No. 6,684,039 for a Reassembled Process Cartridge and Method of

Manufacture

U.S. Patent No. 6,684,039 (“’039”) discloses a reassembled toner cartridge and method of manufacture in which a reassembled process cartridge is resealed by ultrasonic welding without the use of replacement energy director elements. The ‘039 patent is invented by a common inventor and has a common assignee as the present application.

U.S. Patent Application No. 2001/0026706 for a Sealing Member for Toner Assembly

U.S. Patent Application No. 2001/0026706 issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,587,657 (“’657”) (discussed above) and has identical specification and drawings as the ‘657 patent.

3. Fees

No fees are believed to be outstanding pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(1) for filing the information disclosure statement submitted herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 23, 2004

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